

**Catherine Edlund Fossay
Narrator**

**Audrey Jones
Interviewer**

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Heritage Education Commission Oral History Project
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AJ: In preparation for its hundredth anniversary celebration in the years 1987 and 1988, Moorhead State is conducting a series of oral interviews with former students, staff, faculty members, and administrators. I am Audrey Jones, present director of external studies at Moorhead State University [MSU], and today's date is Monday, May 2, 1983. I am interviewing Kay Fossay, formerly Catherine Edlund, who was a student at Moorhead State Teacher's College in 1924-1925, and a member of the graduating class in 1925.

Ah, Kay, you are listed as coming from Fergus Falls. Was that...?

CF: That's right.

AJ: Was that where your home...?

CF: That's where I had...I was born and raised in Fergus.

AJ: You were born and raised in Fergus Falls.

CF: Yes. Yeah, I...

AJ: How did you happen to come to Moorhead State?

CF: Well, when I went through high school I thought my...I had my sight set for a job as a bookkeeper. But all of my girlfriends decided that they were going to be teachers. And I...that was one of the last things that I decided that I was going to be. However, I had...I took normal training at the high school there. And I couldn't have gotten a better background. It was just...just the best that a person could get. And from there I began to realize that bookkeeping wasn't for me; it was teaching. It was something that I knew I was going to like. So because of the fact that some of my friends had come up here to Moorhead, and I had a little friend that came here every...came up to Moorhead every summer, and that had sort of made me intrigued as to what kind of country this part of the country was. So that's why I came here.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. It was quite a shock when you came to the flat land, hmmm? [Chuckles]

CF: Oh, it was hard to get used to.

AJ: Yes.

CF: But somehow or other, as...the longer I lived here...and I have lived here since 1927, hmmm, I just have really enjoyed it.

AJ: Good. Did you...did you say that you had come up some summers? Did...?

CF: Yes.

AJ: Okay. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: I had taken some summer sessions before that.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Did this prepare you for teaching? Were these...?

CF: No...

AJ: Or what types of classes did you take in the summer?

CF: They were...they were classes that [I] had been sort of...hmmm...told that I should take them because they were good.

AJ: I see.

CF: And hmmm...

AJ: These were sort of liberal arts courses then.

CF: That's...that's right.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And hmmm, I had also taken some classes at St. Cloud.

AJ: I see.

CF: At the Teacher's College there. And found that all of those summer classes were classes that I never would have gotten on a regular, you know, basis, because they were...they were teachers from outside of the area here.

AJ: I see. So they had guest teachers coming in from...?

CF: Yes, guest teachers.

AJ: From when...?

CF: One of them especially good was a...one that I took child lit [literature].

AJ: I see.

CF: Who was a full blooded Cherokee Indian, but who was a teacher in...Columbia University.

AJ: I see.

CF: Yes.

AJ: So she came and she gave up her summer to come here and...

CF: That's right. Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: ...and taught in the program.

CF: Yes.

AJ: Hmmm, were those classes very large?

CF: Well, a lot of them were classes where the teachers who were already teaching had come back, I imagine, for extracurricular marks. And some of them were those that were trying to get through school a little sooner.

AJ: I see. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And in some of these cases I found that the background that I had wasn't quite adequate for what I was into.

AJ: Yes.

CF: But I managed to get through.

AJ: How old were you at that time then? You were...?

CF: I was...I started teaching when I was eighteen.

AJ: I see. So you were about seventeen then or sixteen?

CF: Ah...I was...well, no. I taught for two years in a rural school.

AJ: Oh. And when you said that you had been to a normal school at the high school level...

CF: No...

AJ: That...

CF: Normal training.

AJ: Normal training.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Then you had received some teaching credentials then.

CF: Oh, yes. Yes. I had one year and something over a year that was giving me a credit.

AJ: I see.

CF: And I did a lot of student teaching at the time that I was taking normal training.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. So you had been a...

CF: It was a good background.

AJ: So you had been a...

CF: Yeah.

AJ: So you'd been out then for two years teaching.

CF: For two years.

AJ: Where did you teach at that time?

CF: Oh, it was a little school right outside of Fergus.

AJ: I see.

CF: And I was just unusually fortunate in getting into a community that was musical. So I played with the orchestra. And I kept in touch with them for, oh...well, I still keep in touch with them.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Whenever they have any musical events, why, they always let me know.

AJ: What's the name of this town? Do you remember it now?

CF: Carlisle.

AJ: Carlisle.

CF: Yes.

AJ: And they had an orchestra?

CF: They still have it!

AJ: They still have an orchestra.

CF: They have it and it's mostly the [unclear]. Hmm...and the...the offspring of the original ones are the ones that are keeping it up.

AJ: Oh, that's...

CF: It's really something.

AJ: ...really amazing, isn't it?

CF: Yes, it is. Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Now where did you get your musical training then? Were you all...you'd already...?

CF: I had...well, music was sort of in, I guess, our family. And I had learned to play the organ when I was just a little bit of a kid, and somehow or other I guess I just have it in me.

AJ: I see.

CF: I haven't taken a lot of lessons but I do a lot of playing.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. So you didn't take any lessons as you were growing up?

CF: No.

AJ: You just sort of learned?

CF: Well, I took them as I was going to junior high, I think.

AJ: Yes.

CF: When I got into senior high I was too busy.

AJ: Right. Well, then you decided...you were...really were in classes with other experienced teachers then in the summer.

CF: In the summer, especially.

AJ: Yes. Yes.

CF: During the year, not so.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: They were all...hmmm...girls about my age. Because a lot of them had not come back...come to school until after they had been out of school for a year or two.

AJ: Yes.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Now when you came you said that they did give you some credit for your previous training?

CF: Yes. I got a year's training.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: I got a year's credit for...

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: ...for the training that I had gotten.

AJ: So you were immediately classified as a senior.

CF: As a...yes. Yes.

AJ: As a senior.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Now, to be a senior at Moorhead State at that time, did that mean that you were at the end of a two-year program?

CF: That's right.

AJ: Yes.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: So this wasn't...this wasn't in a four-year program at that time?

CF: There was no four-year program at the time that I was there.

AJ: No. That's right. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: I think that was begun in 1926.

AJ: I see. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Hmmm, there were a number of men that came the last...the last part of the year of 1925, they were almost a...minus quantity up to that time.

AJ: Yes.

CF: But as soon as they started giving a four-year course, then it attracted men.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And from then on, of course...I'm not so sure about 1926, but I think that was the year that they started the four-year program.

AJ: Yes, I think that I have read someplace that their first graduates were in 1928, so that would...

CF: Oh. Yeah.

AJ: ...make the 1926 date right.

CF: Yes. That's right.

AJ: Because people would go on from their two-year program.

CF: Yes. Well, it...hmmm...that's right.

AJ: Yes. I did notice that in your senior class, I counted up the people, and I found two hundred and twenty names, with seventeen of them male and two hundred and three female. [Chuckles]

CF: Well, we just didn't have the boys. As I said, they were few and far between. And I could tell you a few things about...Concordia had more boys.

AJ: [Chuckling] I see. And...

CF: So, it was a...in the evenings the Concordia boys would come over to get to see the MS...it was MSTC [Moorhead State Teacher's College] at that time.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And we'd walk Seventh Avenue.

AJ: I see.

CF: [Laughs]

AJ: [Laughs] What did you do for entertainment? Did you go to the movies or go to an ice cream store or...?

CF: Well, we could go to the movies on Friday nights, but ah...we had to be back by...I think it was eleven thirty.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Now, I didn't live at the dorm, but a good many of my friends lived at the dorm, so we were always...we had a curfew.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And Fridays and Saturdays we were allowed even off of...off campus.

AJ: Mmmm.

CF: We were checked on just like those girls that were in the dormitories.

AJ: So your hours were the same?

CF: Oh yes, our hours.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And on weeknights it was seven thirty. We went back to study at seven thirty.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And as soon as it was close to seven thirty, the Concordia boys would take to the hills and go west, and we'd run over to the east! [Laughs]

AJ: [Laughs] Would they let you study in the library or were you supposed to be in the rooms?

CF: No, we...we...we were at our home...in the homes.

AJ: I see.

CF: Or in the rooms, I should say.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: The library was not open in the evenings.

AJ: I see.

CF: Mmmm-mmmm.

AJ: So all that study every night you had to do in your home?

CF: Maybe...maybe until seven thirty, you know.

AJ: Yes.

CF: But hmmm, after that, no.

AJ: Whose home? Do you remember whose home you stayed in?

CF: Hmmm, I stayed at the home of...her name was Mrs. Lundeen.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And it was right close to the cemetery, Prairie Home Cemetery over there.

AJ: I see. So you were strategically located to...

CF: Oh yes, very!

AJ: ...to get to know the Concordia boys! [Chuckles]

CF: *Yes.*

AJ: [Chuckles]

CF: It was...it was fun. I mean, that's...that was...there wasn't a great deal of things to do.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: We did board the streetcar that came right up into the circle here.

AJ: Oh, yes.

CF: There were no gates here.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And there were only two buildings.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And the administration building, they called...I don't recall. Do they call that MacLean Hall? No, I don't think so.

AJ: Probably not at that time.

CF: No. That was afterwards.

AJ: Yes. Yes.

CF: The administration building. And Weld Hall was comparatively new at that time.

AJ: Yes.

CF: I'm not so sure just exactly when it had been built, but...

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: It was...hmmm...it was a lot newer than the administration building. And all our classes and the campus school were...was in the administration building.

AJ: I see. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: So every class that we had was held in that one building. So we didn't have to go from class to class like they do now.

AJ: No. Were there other young women in the same house with you?

CF: Yes. There were three of us.

AJ: Yes.

CF: Hmm, a friend of mine, whom I still come in contact with, she comes up to visit every year, and then another friend of mine, who has been a very good friend of mine since we were ten years old.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And we went to school together and...

AJ: You have a lot to talk about.

CF: And we went to college together and...

AJ: Did you find that there were some difficulties because you really lived in off-campus housing? Did you feel left out of some of the activities?

CF: There were not too many activities. Of course, we couldn't...there were a couple sororities. There were the Gamma Nus and the [Pi Mu Phi] "Witches."

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Which we weren't able to join because we weren't staying...we weren't at the college long enough.

AJ: I see. You had to have been here for...

CF: And we would have had to have been here for a year, I think it was...or not probably a whole year. And we would have had to have been here for a certain length of time before.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And then if we...if that was the case, then we would probably be in the sorority only just a few months then.

AJ: Yes.

CF: Nobody thought that that was worthwhile.

AJ: No. No.

CF: But a lot of my girlfriends were either "Witches" or Gamma Nus. And hmmm...

AJ: I suppose...

CF: But we didn't seem to feel that we were...

AJ: You didn't feel you were discriminated against by it?

CF: No, not at all. I belonged to the art club and I was in the chapel choir.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And hmmm...we did those things. And they seemed to take...take care of our...

AJ: Yes.

CF: I don't know, we didn't...I guess we just didn't crave the excitement of *doing* things all the time.

AJ: No.

CF: We played...

AJ: But you were more mature at that time. You had already worked...

CF: That's true. That's true.

AJ: And you were all ready to...

CF: And I was here. I think maybe the fact that I had taught for two years, I had formulated in my mind *why* I was going back.

AJ: Yes. Now you were here to study and to learn.

CF: And I learned.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: I came here with that idea in mind. And hmmm...because of that, why, I worked.

AJ: Yes.

CF: I worked.

AJ: Your studies were important, where they might not have been quite as important to someone who had come right...

CF: I can tell you just a little bit about...maybe you were going to ask some more questions about student teaching, things like that?

AJ: Oh, that would be...I would find that interesting. Yes.

CF: Ah, my student...I had done a great deal of student teaching all year in my normal training classes, and had an excellent supervisor.

AJ: Yes.

CF: She was just A-1. So when I came here, I had already taught two years, and had one year of...but then I...we were allowed to take primary, intermediate, or junior high.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And I chose junior high.

AJ: I see. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: I like the seventh, eighth, and ninth grades.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Did that mean much difference in the course of study?

CF: Well, it did, because you had to take methods. I took junior high methods.

AJ: I see. Instead of the...

CF: And you learned how to handle and approach junior high children.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Were your basic courses much different?

CF: Well, ah...I'm surprised at some of the things that we had to do in...like in student teaching, we were...I taught the whole year of 1925. I started in the fall.

AJ: I see.

CF: And I taught then until the spring...spring quarter. Through the spring quarter.

AJ: You taught in the campus school then?

CF: Yes, I taught right in the campus school.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Which was right in the administration building.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And I...my first job as student teacher was to teach Julius Caesar to ninth graders.
[Chuckles]

AJ: [Chuckling] Well, how did that go?

CF: [Chuckles] My supervisor...there were about...well, this is going back. There were...I think there were seventeen in the class.

AJ: Yes.

CF: Which was a pretty good-sized class; they were mostly boys. And ah...

AJ: Were they mostly children of faculty here or were there...?

CF: No.

AJ: No?

CF: No. I don't think I had any...any of the children of any faculty.

AJ: I see. Well, they were Moorhead residents then.

CF: They were Moorhead residents, and they were...there were quite a few that came here to go to school in the campus school.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Recognizing that they had...would get good education.

AJ: Sure.

CF: And I think, too, that a lot of them from this general area preferred to go there. And there were some of the children from farms that were close...close to Moorhead.

AJ: Mmmm.

CF: That came in. And hmmm...well, I know that my supervisor...I'm not telling things out of school, but anyway, she knew that I had taught before, of course.

AJ: Right.

CF: And she said, "Well, if there's...if you can *just* make those kids behave, I'll give you an A."

AJ: [Laughing] She didn't really care if you taught Julius Caesar or anything.

CF: [Laughs] She had been having quite a time with them.

AJ: Mmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Because they were...they weren't...they weren't *mean* but ah...there was one boy in the class, he wasn't...he didn't...and never did anything, but as soon as he stood up to recite, they all laughed. And that was quite a thing. And the funny part of it was, I met him about two weeks ago!

AJ: Is that right?

CF: And I says, "Aren't you...?" And I gave the name.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And he looked at me, he says...And he said, "And you're Miss Edlund!" I says, "Do you realize how long ago it is since you were in my class?" He says, "I'll never forget you!" [Laughs]

AJ: [Laughs] That's wonderful! How many hours a day did you spend in that classroom?

CF: We had hour classes.

AJ: I see.

CF: And I remember an hour seemed indefinite when I first came because I had taught in a rural school where my classes were probably ten and fifteen minutes long. And so when I prepared, I had decided to study the Elizabethan theater first before we embarked on Julius Caesar. And hmmm...so...I worked enough. I did enough work that would...I thought would cover one week. And she says, "You don't have to do anything more for the rest of the six weeks." Because I had...

AJ: You had so much material.

CF: I had *so* much material.

AJ: Right.

CF: I just wasn't aware that time was [chuckles] that precious, I guess.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: But it...it was something that I...I just never...well, I never really cared for any of Shakespeare's plays when I was in high school. But I was determined that I was going to enjoy...learn to enjoy this and get the class to enjoy it. And I think they did.

AJ: You did.

CF: They liked it, and I got so that I...the next summer, I took classes in Shakespeare.

AJ: Is that right?

CF: Mmmm-hmmm. I enjoyed it!

AJ: So [chuckles] both you and the students became involved.

CF: That's right. Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Well, was this a fairly normal thing as far as practice teaching at the training school, is that every student would have a particular project, and teach for an hour a day, and then they go to their own classes the rest of the day?

CF: Yes. That's right. Yes.

AJ: That is the way it was normally handled?

CF: Yes.

AJ: Most students then did not ever have to take over any classroom for a full day. Or did they in the elementary grades?

CF: No, they didn't. No.

AJ: They didn't even in the first or second grade? They...?

CF: No. When I...the second...we had to do two terms of student teaching.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And my second term of student teaching was early history of Moorhead.

AJ: Ah, yes.

CF: And then I had eighth graders.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. That would be an easier topic to interest them.

CF: It wasn't.

AJ: Oh, wasn't it? Oh...

CF: Because...hmmm... there was really *no* information. There were no books. We had to rely on what people told us, what little we could find. And it...it involved a lot of work, lot of research.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And we were fortunate in one way, in that there were a number of people that had lived in Moorhead in the early history of Moorhead that were able to let us interview them.

AJ: So you did the same thing that we're doing now! Is that right?

CF: Mmmm-hmmm. That's...this is right.

AJ: Yes.

CF: Mr. Makel[sp?] was one of them. Hmmm...I was trying to think of some of the others that...he had a drugstore.

AJ: I see.

CF: There were a couple others that...oh, Mr. Comstock. He...

AJ: Yes.

CF: He had a land office down on First Avenue South. And hmmm...there was a third one. I...I don't recall his name. But through them we were able to get the feeling, the flavor of Moorhead as it was. And hmmm...it became an intensely interesting...interesting thing.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And my class...now there was another one in my junior high methods class. The two of us sort of worked together.

AJ: Did you do the interviewing then?

CF: And ah...

AJ: Hmmm, for example, did you interview Mr. Comstock?

CF: That's right.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And we interviewed any of these that we had.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And hmmm...after this was all...all of it got put together, we printed a small booklet.

AJ: You did. I was just going to ask you...

CF: I still have it.

AJ: You do have it?

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Do you know...?

CF: And it was all the information that we had; was used in the pageantry class, of which I was a member too, in the spring of the year. And we had...we had a pageant on early Moorhead down along the river that was all taken from the material that we had gotten.

AJ: Oh, how exciting! [Chuckles]

CF: It was! It really was. [Chuckles]

AJ: That really was. Sounds exciting.

CF: Hmmm, my...my student teaching here was fantastic. It really was.

AJ: Sounds marvelous.

CF: I...yeah, I really enjoyed it.

AJ: Can you...? How large a cast did you have in your pageant in those early days?

CF: Oh, our cast was large. We had Indians, and we had settlers, and we had...we even had people that could sing for us, you know, to give parts of it.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And I can still remember the Indians coming down in canoes, you know, around...along the bend of the river there.

AJ: You...yes.

CF: It was really...it was really...Miss [Flora] Frick was...we worked with her. She was...

AJ: She was your advisor for the pageant?

CF: She was the advisor, and she was also teaching our pageantry class. There must have been, oh, a hundred fifty.

AJ: In the cast!

CF: Yeah, because we took a college...those that were going to college, too. And there were quite a number of them that were taking phys. ed. [physical education] classes. And we recruited anybody that we could. Because...

AJ: Did you invite, I presume, the whole community to this then?

CF: *We* invited anybody that...that would like to be a part of it.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Now did you have an audience? Was there...where were the...?

CF: Oh, yes, we gave it to an audience. That's right.

AJ: Yes. How large an audience could you...?

CF: Oh, that I...I can't recall.

AJ: No.

CF: They had it...would have to come and just stand along the...we had it down by the old footbridge down by the...there was a place down there that had canoes for rent and that. I think Domer's had it. And it was down in that area that we gave the...

AJ: The pageant.

CF: ...the pageant.

AJ: Did you use both sides of the river or just the Moorhead side?

CF: No, just this side.

AJ: Just this side of the river.

CF: This side of the river. That's right. Mmmm-hmmm. And we've used that material many, many times.

AJ: How about costumes?

CF: We made our costumes.

AJ: You made your own costumes.

CF: Oh, yes. Mmmm-hmmm. Everything was done, you know, in our class, in our pageantry class.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. How about your interview with Mr. Comstock? Can you tell me what...how you reacted to him, what kind of person he seemed to be?

CF: Hmmm, he...he was quiet, and really didn't...whether he wanted to tell us and...or whether he was a little bit reticent. Now Mr. Makel was much more...ah...open, I think.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Hmmm...I'd...it was just a difference in their personalities.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. But you did get information from both of them?

CF: Oh, yes. We got good information from both of them. Mr. Makel used to tell us about all the social events that they had. And maybe Mr. Comstock didn't get into some of those. I don't...I don't recall that part of it. But of course he was...we were cognizant of the fact that he had given our...this land for our...for the...

AJ: For the school.

CF: ...for the school.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And of course we held him in *high* regard. [Chuckles]

AJ: I would imagine so.

CF: That's right.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And the fun part of it was that when I went back to teaching again after my husband passed away, I had his granddaughter in my class.

AJ: Is that right?

CF: And as a result, we went over and studied early Moorhead and had a play. And we...at that time, Mr. Comstock—not the old Mr. Comstock, but George Comstock who is his son—we honored them when we gave the play.

AJ: In your public school?

CF: That's right.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: In the Moorhead Public School.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Now when you left here...I'm going to come back to in Moorhead.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: MSU again. But when you went back into teaching, where did you teach then?

CF: Ah, it was...there was a school...there were two schools that were being negotiated into student teaching. One was the Clearview School and one was Oak Mound. Clearview was south of Moorhead and Oak Mound is north.

AJ: Yes. And these were being added to the training school.

CF: They were added. And they were...we called them affiliated schools because they were under the jurisdiction, all of the student teaching and everything was going to be under the jurisdiction of the school here. And when I went out, Dr. Archer was probably one of the top men that were responsible for it. And then they would have student teacher supervisors that would come periodically. And hmmm...once in a while, Miss Sloan from our campus school would come. But that was after the new campus school had been built.

AJ: I see.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm. But hmmm...and as a result, we...there were a number of us that were interviewed. And probably because I had taught in a rural school, and because I'd had two years of experience, and had two good years of student teaching here.

AJ: Yes.

CF: I was chosen as one of the supervisors at Oak Mound.

AJ: I see.

CF: The senior...

AJ: So you taught and then you supervised Moorhead...?

CF: I taught seventh and eighth grade and ninth grade at Oak Mound. And then we had a change of student teachers every month. And it was a new venture.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: We worked...we had to work out ideas as to how it could be best done, and the girls lived right in the school. We had a teacherage right there.

AJ: Did they...?

CF: And *we* lived there, too.

AJ: So you had those...supervision of those young women twenty-four hours a day then.

CF: We did.

AJ: Did they then teach all day for you when they started...?

CF: No.

AJ: That was just in...

CF: They did a lot of student...they had to write lesson plans based on our teaching, and that had to be handed in to the college or to the methods class here in town. And hmmm...of course, we had to correct them.

AJ: They...in other words, they observed you teaching?

CF: They...they observed.

AJ: Wrote down lesson plans based on what they observed?

CF: That's right. And then after a certain length of time then they were allowed to write a lesson plan on their own and then teach it. And then...

AJ: That would be their month's work, would be this?

CF: That's right.

AJ: Now would they do the same sort of thing that you had done on the campus, one project like the Julius Caesar project or...?

CF: To begin with, we didn't do that so much. Because projects were sort of in their infancy at that time and hmmm...it was something rather new to me, too. So I felt that to begin with we'd just sort of hmmm...worked it out together. And they watched what we did, and usually they would probably take a class, not so much connected with a project as with another kind of a class, because we wanted to see...wanted them to see the continuity of the project as we were

working. And hmmm...you might be interested in knowing that one of my very first student teachers was May Tangen. She *just* passed away last week.

AJ: You have such a long history in this community. And it's amazing how people...

CF: Can you...can you even...

AJ: ...people keep coming back.

CF: That's right.

AJ: And you certainly see people again that you taught and...

CF: And here she...here she came back. She went out to teach and she came back later as a primary supervisor at the school. So...at the same time that Alice Corneliuson was there.

AJ: Oh, yes.

CF: So...

AJ: Interwoven connections all the way along.

CF: That's right.

AJ: Right. How long did you stay at Oak Mound then?

CF: Well, I taught only two years there. And then I was married.

AJ: I see. And then you gave up teaching for a while?

CF: But I was a...yes.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: But I was always...we were always active with school activities. And hmmm...

AJ: And did you keep up your connections with the...?

CF: With the college.

AJ: With the college, too.

CF: I tell you, my husband was on the school board. And it was interesting in that the college and all these school boards had periodic meetings. And when we had these meetings to iron out certain things that were new to them and new to the college, we always had...we entertained the

other school at a dinner. And it became quite a social affair. So probably in the fall of the year we'd be at Oak Mound, and maybe in the spring of the year we'd be at Clearview. So that it was...we became very well-oriented as to what the college wanted, and they also became cognizant of the fact that there are certain things that the school board wanted, too.

AJ: Yes, it sounds as if...a good...a good arrangement.

CF: It was a very good arrangement.

AJ: Good interaction. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And then of course we had a...with the student teachers there, there were four that came out. To begin with, four came out every month, which we decided that that was not long enough. It would have to be two weeks of supervision before they even would start, and then probably one month where they would be given different classes to teach. And so that was one of things that were changed.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: But they lived right there and did all of it.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: So we had to make our fun.

AJ: How about the food? How about feeding them?

CF: Oh, yes. And we always had a cook. We had *very* good cooks.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: My mother was there for two years.

AJ: Is that right?

CF: Yes. After my father died.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And hmmm...I think all the girls, they...they liked it.

AJ: Yes. You'd have a closeness, a feeling of working together.

CF: That's right.

AJ: That...that one wouldn't get today.

CF: And we had...we had a lot of fun. Every night after supper we did something that was...a lot of times a little foolish.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And something to laugh at and, you know, things like that.

AJ: You'd put on skits and things like that, you mean?

CF: Oh, we did a lot of things, yes.

AJ: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: We usually would go for walks. And the community out there was unusual. It wasn't in a usual community, for one thing. And they just took us in as a part of the community. So we were invited to this person's home, and to another, and so on. And so that...really, time was never dull.

AJ: No.

CF: Never. [Chuckles]

AJ: When did you go back to teaching then? Do you remember the year?

CF: Ah, when I went back after my husband died?

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: I went back in 1965. Excuse me, in 1956.

AJ: 1956.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: And then you taught in the Moorhead Public Schools.

CF: And then I taught for ten years in Moorhead, in the Moorhead Public Schools.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Yes. Well, you've had a long experience with the schools. I'm going to ask you now about a few of the people you've met.

[Brief interruption]

AJ: And Georgina [interviewer pronounces it like “Georgiana”] Lommen [director of the campus school from 1923-1943], can you tell me what she was like?

CF: Ah, she was...the first...well, let’s see now. I was trying to think where I got my first impression of her. Ah...she came out one time, and it was shortly after we had started. And of course the children were *scared to death* of her.

AJ: Oh.

CF: She had a rather formidable stance with her and ah...she came in as though she meant business, and she did! [Chuckles]

AJ: Yes. [Chuckles]

CF: You know. But hmmm...the children, they...I could...I tried and tried to get them to answer, you know. We were talking about...I don’t remember what we...what our class was. And she was rather disappointed in our...my teacher participation. It was much too strong.

AJ: I see.

CF: But the children were scared to *death* that...they hadn’t had this kind of an experience before.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And it didn’t make any difference whether it was Miss Lommen or anybody else. They would have been *just* as frightened. They just...She would send...

AJ: She was sitting in the back of the room and supervising.

CF: That’s right.

AJ: And they just froze.

CF: And they froze.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And so...and she...she did. She told me that, too, that she just thought I had too much...And of course that was one of the things...

AJ: Of course, you couldn’t help that. [Chuckles]

CF: One of the things that we had been working on, and I never had to worry about that in any of the classes I had here in the campus school. So it...it *bothered* me. And I just made up my

mind. She was going to be invited sometime, and not...and it probably would take a whole year, but I would invite her and she would see that...that there was something different. And hmmm...we did just that. Well, they...

AJ: Yes. So they finally got used to having her there.

CF: Oh, yeah. And not...and she didn't come that often.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: But we started doing...I started doing a lot of work with the youngsters participating and being on their own a lot. And I had some very, very bright children out there that were able to do just...go along with what I had in mind. And I know we were carrying out...we were making a newspaper. And one of the boys was an editor, and I wish you could have seen what they had done. So we invited Miss Lommen out. She was amazed! [Chuckles]

AJ: [Laughs] That's good! I think I mispronounced her first name. Its Georgina, isn't it?

CF: Georgina Lommen. Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Georgina Lommen. I noticed that you still called...

CF: She got along very...

AJ: ...call her Miss Lommen.

CF: Oh, yes. We always called her Miss Lommen!

AJ: Yes. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: We had another supervisor, Miss Lockwood. And she came out and...was...I was trying to think now. I think probably that in the middle of the second year we had another one that came out and just did...it was...most of the supervising was by us that were there.

AJ: Yes. Did...did...?

CF: That's really the only thing that really amounted to something.

AJ: Now were there cars for your supervisors to come out in at that time?

CF: They had...the college had their own car.

AJ: I see. Then it wasn't too...

CF: And we had a janitor that had a car, and he was a likeable sort of fellow, and he even let us use the car to go to Kragnes to get candy once in a while.

AJ: Is that right? [Laughing] Well, that would be a special treat then with everybody excited.

CF: [Laughs]

AJ: Well, I *knew* there were cars by that time, but I didn't know how many people would be owning them, and...

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: And but the college had one so they could always use that.

CF: Oh, yes. They had...they had...

AJ: Yes. How about did any of the students come to school with cars at that time?

CF: No. Oh...no. Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: No. Yeah, they probably weren't even allowed if they did happen to own one.

CF: No...and there were no cars on campus, never.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And hmmm...we had a number of boys that came out as student teachers. And that was...that was so interesting. We just...we kept in contact with them a number of years after they had finished doing student teaching.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: One of them, one of the students that we had that we kept the most in contact with was Arnold Kittleson and he was...I think he became superintendent of schools at Halstad for a number of years.

AJ: How did the...? Obviously, most of the student teachers were young women. How did your students react to the male teachers?

CF: They liked it.

AJ: They did.

CF: Yeah, they liked it.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Yeah. And the boys never stayed at the school. They stayed at one of the homes that were just close by.

AJ: You were here when President [Raymond] MacLean was here. Did you ever have any personal contact with him?

CF: Yes. He had been our superintendent in Fergus. And...

AJ: He had before he came here as president?

CF: That's right. And his...I had played with his daughter. So I knew the MacLean's before they ever came here.

AJ: I see.

CF: And hmmm...so we got along famously. [Laughs]

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Can you tell me what type of person he was?

CF: To me, he was just...he was just a beautiful fellow. He was just...I imagine to one that didn't know him, probably the first impression would be that he would be sort of...stern. But hmmm...he was just...to me, I just felt that he couldn't have...couldn't have been improved on.

AJ: Is that right? Did you think that was a common feeling among the students?

CF: I think so. I think so.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And I remember just the human side of him a little bit. I was being initiated into what is now Kappa Delta Pi but at that time was Lambda Phi Sigma. It was the same thing, only it was for, I suppose, two-year students. And we had a banquet and we were given raw oysters!

AJ: Oh! [Chuckles]

CF: And he says, "Well, I may be president of the college, but I don't eat raw oysters."
[Chuckles]

AJ: [Laughs]

CF: I happened to be sitting next to him.

AJ: [Chuckles] Yes.

CF: And he was...he was just a down-to-earth fellow.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Well, you knew him now as the father of a friend of yours.

CF: That's right.

AJ: But when you came here to the college, did you...?

CF: That had no effect, you know. I mean...

AJ: No. But did you have much contact with him as a student? Was he at a lot of the affairs, and would he mix with the students fairly well?

CF: Yes, he mixed...he mixed with them.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: But as I said before, there weren't a lot of activity. It isn't like it is now, you know. The activity is such that you could be going to something *all* the time.

AJ: That's right.

CF: You know.

AJ: Yes.

CF: We would have...we had a class play always, and we had a...I know the art club put on certain things. But the activities were...were limited.

AJ: So you really didn't have a lot of contact with him?

CF: Not a...not a great deal.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: I always talked to him because we had friends in Fergus that we...he wanted to know about and so on. But other than that, I didn't have too much contact with him.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Hmmm, some of these other names that I'm giving you are members of the faculty who for whom buildings have been named.

CF: Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: And do you remember [Jane M.] Jennie Owens?

CF: Oh, very well.

AJ: I suppose you knew her...

CF: Oh, yes.

AJ: ...later in life, too. But as a...

CF: Hmmm, I worked...worked a great deal with Margaret Biri[sp?], with whom she lived for many years in the same house that...Lewis...

AJ: Is that where Bea...?

CF: Bea Lewis[sp?].

AJ: ...Bea Lewis lives?

CF: That's right.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And hmmm...Miss Biri was the rural school...she was called supervisor, but she really didn't do supervising a great deal. She was kind of in charge of the methods classes and all that.

AJ: I see.

CF: She was sort of a person that we would go to if we needed help of some kind. So I got to know Miss Biri very well.

AJ: Yes. And how about Flora Frick [who taught women's athletics and German at the college from 1919-1958]? You've mentioned you already...

CF: Yes.

AJ: ...had quite a bit of contact with her.

CF: Yes.

AJ: You took a class from her.

CF: We worked on this pageant, too.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: During the time that I was taking the class. And then I also...I played softball and was a pitcher.

AJ: Is that right?

CF: [Chuckles] In her...

AJ: Were you involved in any other sports?

CF: No. There weren't enough boys, you know, to have a football...really, a football team. We did have basketball, however. There were enough boys so that there was a basketball team. It wasn't...a major part of the school curriculum as it is now. Just because of the lack of boys. It wasn't long before it became, you know, important. There was a lot of music on campus because Dan Preston, who is still here...

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And has been active in music circles. And hmmm...

AJ: Were you active in music groups?

CF: I didn't do a lot of that because I came here to do student teaching, and I just couldn't be involved in too many things. If I was to be involved in music, I wanted to do a lot of it. And hmmm...I was in the chapel choir, which didn't involve a lot of practicing. But other than that, I...I would have liked to have been in more of it, but hmmm...

AJ: Yes, you have a real talent there. And it was too bad you didn't have more time, but you couldn't do everything.

CF: Yes, but I just...And the same way in art. I liked art and I know my art teacher thought that I was being very foolish not to spend more time at it. And I said, "Well, I came here with the idea that I had to do student teaching." And with student teaching there was really not much that you could do outside of...especially when I was given those classes that were a little bit hard.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Julius Caesar and early Moorhead weren't exactly...

AJ: [Laughing] Yes.

CF: ...pushovers! [Laughs]

AJ: [Laughs] No, that's right. They took a lot of planning time, a lot of work. Did you...did you get to know Alex Nemzek at all?

CF: Not a great deal, but I had a brother that went here, and was the co-captain of the football team, and he and Alex were very good friends.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: As it was, my brother was killed in a car accident. And...hmmm, both MacLean and Alex Nemzek came to the funeral and gave the most beautiful eulogies.

AJ: Mmmm.

CF: So that...

AJ: Yeah [unclear].

CF: ...I became...you know, I knew them in...in that way more than anything else.

AJ: Yes. How about Millie Dahl? Did you know...?

CF: No, I had not much to do with her because I never lived at the dorm.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Did you ever eat in the...in the [unclear]?

CF: Ah, not very often. We...hmmm...we stayed with this little old lady. And hmmm...

AJ: And she fed you, too, with the...?

CF: No, she didn't.

AJ: Oh. You didn't.

CF: We did our own cooking.

AJ: Oh, yes.

CF: You'd be surprised how we did it. But ah...

AJ: When you say I'd be surprised...

CF: [Laughs]

AJ: ...you mean you just had a hot plate or...?

CF: Well, we didn't even have that. We would put our...we'd bake our potatoes in the front of the...inside of the furnace down in the basement. And we'd make scalloped potatoes there and...[Chuckles]

AJ: [Laughing] Is that right? So you really didn't have kitchen privileges in the house.

CF: No. We had...she would have allowed it, too. But you know, people in those days, too, didn't have...we didn't have electric coffee pots and electric fry pans. It would have been great if we could have had those things at our disposal.

AJ: Yes.

CF: But...you can't imagine that, you know, that...those things have all come in the years...intervening years now. And we had none of those kinds of things that would have made it a lot easier for us.

AJ: Did you eat alright? I mean was your diet...?

CF: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. We got along fine, got along.

AJ: Yes. Did you ever eat downtown?

CF: Oh, we had...there was the College Inn over here and some people by the name of Strands[sp?] had that. That was absolutely the most fantastic place. And we tried to manage to eat there at least twice a week, and we went over for our dinner at noon. And then when we felt that we could afford it—it was always a matter of whether we could afford anything—then we'd go over for a piece of Mrs. Strands' elegant chocolate cake with a glass of milk.

AJ: She was a good cook, hmmm?

CF: *Very* good. And hmmm, it was well-patronized.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Lots of students there?

CF: A lot...quite a lot of students.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. And how about townspeople? Did they serve the townspeople, too?

CF: Well, they did, but they catered mostly to students. And hmmm...I know the Preston family came there regularly, very often. Because I think she taught violin, and he taught here, and they...I think they had about...they had at least four children.

AJ: So they both taught school and they ran the College Inn, too?

CF: Ah, they'd...hmmm...I think she privately taught violin.

AJ: I see. I see. So those [unclear].

CF: She wasn't at the school.

AJ: Well, we have a very modern sounding family there, don't we?

CF: Don't we, though? That's for sure.

AJ: With both...both parents working, and children, and then running the College Inn that was open.

CF: Yes.

AJ: That's right.

CF: And I remember a couple of the fellows that I knew lived with them, and they were just...you know, they just helped them as though they were girls. I mean they just...

AJ: They were...

CF: They were a part [unclear].

AJ: Maybe worked for their room and board, do you suppose?

CF: Hmm, they...I know they worked for their room. I don't recall whether they...I know one of them was Harlow Berquist that was over in Fargo, you know, has been teaching over there.

AJ: Yes, and he taught music here, didn't he?

CF: He taught. Yes.

AJ: Was he a student or a teacher here?

CF: He was a student.

AJ: Was a student here at that time. And ah...

CF: And he lived in Parkers Prairie so he and I used to drive down every so often out of Fergus because once in a while he was able to use a car.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: So...

AJ: How many people could they serve in the College Inn?

CF: Oh, I don't imagine that they could serve more than...hmmm...[sighs] oh, I would say thirty-five, forty. Not any more.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. And based...did they serve a supper there also? Or was it...?

CF: Yes, they had...they were there for the whole day. But most of the time we wanted our dinner.

AJ: Yes.

CF: And in those days we ate dinner at noon.

AJ: That...that was very common then.

CF: Yes. Yes, as...

AJ: How much would it cost you for dinner? Do you remember?

CF: That I don't recall.

AJ: No.

CF: All I can remember is that one time in 1935, that's after I had been married a number of years, we served a chicken dinner at our school for thirty-five cents.

AJ: Is that right?

CF: So you see...

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: It wasn't very expensive.

AJ: Not very expensive.

CF: Maybe we could have...maybe we paid only twenty-five cents for our dinner, which consisted of probably a hot beef sandwich or something like that.

AJ: Yes. Would you find students going over there during the middle of the afternoon for a cake and milk or...?

CF: It was mostly when they were through with their classes.

AJ: Yes. They wouldn't be apt to go over in the middle of the day for a coffee break or...?

CF: No, we didn't...we didn't have breaks like they have now.

AJ: I see. You were really in class...

CF: It seems we...we were going to class very...pretty much like high school, where we would go from one class to the other throughout the day.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. So you'd be scheduled all...most of the day every day.

CF: Most of the day we were scheduled that way.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: We, you know...they'd have to make use of all those...the rooms. And as I said before, there were...the classes that were held over at Weld Hall were the biology classes, the woodworking classes, and music. And at one time they did have a small home ec. [economics] department upstairs. I don't recall that it really...whether it was just something that they took on the side...there was no course of any kind that I can recall.

AJ: No. How about the sciences? Did you take very many sciences?

CF: Hmmm...the main science that I took was biology.

AJ: How much? One quarter?

CF: And I took...I think I took two quarters of that.

AJ: Two quarters of biology.

CF: With Ballard.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: And enjoyed him.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. What type of teacher was he?

CF: He was good.

AJ: Was he?

CF: Ah...I mean, I liked him as a teacher. He was down to earth and I learned a lot from him. I don't know whether other people did or not. I...

AJ: Did you have labs as part of the biology courses?

CF: And there wasn't a great deal of lab work.

AJ: No.

CF: We didn't have really much in the line of labs at that time.

AJ: I suppose you didn't have much equipment.

CF: No. The equipment was very sparse.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. How large would those classes be in the sciences?

CF: Oh, I suppose...probably forty, between forty or...

AJ: Oh, those were...

CF: Forty or fifty.

AJ: Those were fairly large.

CF: Fairly good-sized.

AJ: Large classes then.

CF: Yes. I think that the only one that taught biology was Ballard.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm. Did you...? Were you aware that the college was teaching what they called sub-collegiate college courses at that time? Or had they wiped those out by the time you got here?

CF: Ah...

AJ: For some to help high school students finish their high school courses.

CF: Ah, that had been...that had been phased out by the time I got here.

AJ: I see. So it was only the college program.

CF: I know I had...I had two sister-in-laws and any number of girls that I came to know later that had gone to school here five years, and that included their high school and their college...what they needed for college. And my two sister-in-laws both taught in Fargo.

AJ: I see. Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: After they had gotten their five years of work. But that was...that included their high school work, too.

AJ: Yes. I think that probably was phased out just the year before you came.

CF: It was phased. I think it was phased out.

AJ: Yes. Because I noticed it in that catalog.

CF: Yeah. Mmmm-hmmm.

AJ: About a year before, that they still had listed some biology classes. That's where I noticed that they called them sub-collegiate courses.

CF: Oh.

AJ: And I presume that meant high school courses.

CF: Yes.

AJ: And so they had wiped out quite a few of those. Did you know Samuel Bridges?

CF: Not very well.

AJ: You didn't take any history.

CF: I never had to take a history class.

AJ: Mmmm-hmmm.

CF: Hmmm...history...I mean, social studies and social sciences were...became my big forte when I started teaching. I...But there again, I had sort of had...qualms about history.

AJ: What do you mean qualms?

CF: I sort of...Well, I had taken history from a teacher that didn't teach history that I...like I thought it should be taught.

AJ: I see.

CF: And hmmm...I guess I was one of those kind of people that I wanted to know the reason for things and I never could see the reason for some of this, this constant repetition of dates without any references to why...why we had to remember dates, and of what value they were, and so on

and so forth. So I...when instead of taking a history course, I took an economic course and became...

AJ: Who was your instructor [of] that?

CF: Ah, Dr. Kesey[sp?].

AJ: Dr. Kesey.

CF: That's right. And I got into a class there that was really interesting because in...I think it was about in...oh, the latter half of the term that I took from him, there were about six, I think, of us, who were asked to work out a social studies curriculum, or an economics curriculum....

[End of interview]